

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated single or double-stranded DNA molecule which encodes a porcine adipocyte polypeptide, leptin, the molecule consisting of the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or an allelic variant thereof.

2. An expression vector comprising the DNA molecule according to Claim 1.

3. The vector according to Claim 2 in which the vector is a plasmid.

4. A host cell transformed or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 3.

5. An isolated mRNA molecule for encoding a porcine adipocyte polypeptide leptin, the mRNA molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1 or an allelic variant thereof.

6. An antisense RNA molecule which is complementary to a gene for encoding a porcine adipocyte polypeptide, the antisense RNA molecule capable of binding with an mRNA molecule sufficient to inhibit biosynthesis of the porcine adipocyte polypeptide.

7. The antisense RNA molecule of Claim 6 which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 1, a fragment thereof, or an allelic variant thereof.

8. The antisense RNA molecule of Claim 7 comprising at least about 20 nucleotides.

9. The antisense RNA molecule of Claim 7 comprising at least about 50 nucleotides.

10. A porcine adipocyte polypeptide leptin encoded by a nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 1, a sequence complementary to sequence SEQ ID NO: 1, or an allelic variant of either sequence.

11. The porcine adipocyte polypeptide leptin of Claim 10 in which the polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a functional derivative thereof.

12. An antibody directed against the porcine adipocyte polypeptide leptin of Claim 10.

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